Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 14360 281515Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 EB-11 OMB-01 H-03 DRC-01 /127 W ------ 110301

R 281405Z DEC 73

FM AME MBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2509

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USCINCEUR

SECRETROME 14360

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MARR, IT

SUBJECT: BURDEN SHARING

REFS: A. STATE 248790; B. ROME 14118

1. EMBOFF CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF REF A TO BOTH FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES. MFA OFFICIAL WITH WHOM WE SPOKE (DA RIN) EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CLARIFICATION, BUT IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED INTO LINE OF ARGUMENT THAT THE PREMISES ON WHICH THE US BURDEN SHARING PROPOSAL HAD BEEN BASED HAVE CHANGED MARKEDLY WHAT WITH THE IMPROVED OVERALL US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSTURE AND PARLOUS FUEL SITUATION IN EUROPE. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER, DA RIN SAID THAT THE RECENT FUEL PRICE INCREASES WILL WREAK HAVOC WITH EUROPEAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND THE THE GOOD WILL THAT THE ITALIANS FOR ONE HAVE HERETOFORE MAINTAINED TOWARD OUR BURDEN SHARING REQURIEMENTS IS BEING SUBMERGED BY ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BEYOND ANYONE'S CONTROL. HE SECRET

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PAGE 02 ROME 14360 281515Z

COMMENTED THAT, WITH THE EUROPEANS, PARTICULARLY THE UK, SCRAPING

THE BOTTOM OF THE ECONOMIC BARREL, THE US BURDEN SHARING PROPOSAL IS UNLIKELY TO FALL ON VERY PRODUCTIVE GROUND. IN SHORT, THE TIMING COULD NOT BE WORSE.

2. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THE TIMING IS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH NOW THAT JACKSON-NUNN IS LAW AND THAT UNILATERAL US FORCE REDUCTIONS ARE INEVITABLE IF THE LEGAL STRICTURES OF THE AMENDMENT ARE NOT SATISFIED. DA RIN REMARKED PHILOSOPHICALLY THAT US LAW IS ONE THING, BUT THE EUROPEANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE "LAW OF ECONOMIC SURVIVAL." THIS, HE SAID, IS THE DILEMMA WITH WHICH THE EUROPEANS ARE PRESENTLY GRAPPLING. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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